

5617 '01 MAR 21 P6:05
U. S. Food and drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir / Madam;

I am writing to urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured to even stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be affected with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

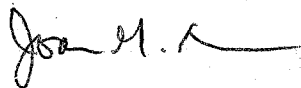
Last year the USDA announce a landmark policy to stop purchasing meat from downed cows for federal programs, including the National School Lunch Program. The Agency stated, "USDA will no longer accept ground beef that includes product from non-ambulatory cattle, known as "downers."

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Since it is impossible to move downed animals humanely, they should either be provided with appropriate veterinary care or humanely euthanized.

Therefore, I am again urging you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 and prohibit the further inhumane treatment and slaughter of downed animals.

Sincerely,



JOAN M. KURTZ

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E. STAUKE, NY 11733

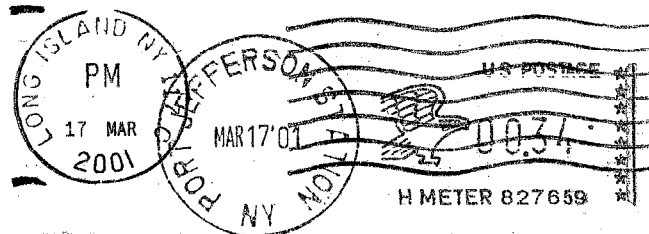
Please assure me that you'll support this important petition. The idea that these sick animals are being further mistreated is sickening & unconscionable!

98P-0151

C4357



Ms. Joan Kurtz
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